THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) As per the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM) under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao, five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been established at Kolkata, Pune, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram. At present, there is no proposal to establish any more IISERs in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A suitable reply has been sent to the Chief Minister of Gujarat stating that at present there is no proposal to establish any more IISERs in the country.

World Bank report on secondary education

1770. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that our secondary education is in shambles;

(b) whether Government has taken cognizance of the World Bank report recently published stating that India is behind China, Brazil, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in secondary education; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken to improve the quality of education at all levels?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The World Bank in its report 'Secondary Education in India: Universalizing Opportunity' (January, 2009) has mentioned that India's gross enrolment rate at the secondary level of 40% is below that of countries in East Asia and Latin America. The report also states that countries having lower per capita income than India such as Vietnam and Moldova have much higher GER Bangladesh with a far lower per capita income has roughly the same GER at the secondary level.

(c) Central Government recognizes the need to make substantial improvement to the secondary education sector. A new centrally sponsored scheme called "Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan" has been launched to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality. It, *inter alia*, seeks to ensure availability of secondary school within reasonable distance of every habitation and to improve quality of education imparted at secondary stage by conforming all schools to prescribed norms. An outlay of Rs.20,120 crore has been provided for this scheme during the Eleventh Plan. The total allocation for the secondary education sector has also been increased from Rs.4,325 crore in the Tenth Plan to Rs.53,550 crore in the Eleventh Plan.

Awarding of MCA and BCA degrees by IGNOU

1771. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: